AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 44 and 49 in the above-identified patent application as follows and as shown on the claims listing dated 8/13/04 appended hereto.

44. (currently amended) A method for multiepitope detection of an analyte in a sample, the analyte comprising at least two epitopes, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a solid phase comprising a non-porous support, a first and a second spatially separate test area, and a first and a second receptor, the first and second receptors binding specifically with said analyte but to different epitopes of the analyte, the first receptor bound directly or indirectly to the first test area and the second receptor bound directly or indirectly to the second test area, there being no more than one analyte-specific receptor bound per test area and there being an inert surface between the test areas which does not bind to the analyte or other sample components,

(b) contacting the sample with the solid phase and with a detection reagent comprising a third receptor that binds with the analyte and that is bound to a signal generating group, and

(c) determining presence or amount of the signal generating group bound to the test areas via the analyte as a measure of the analyte in said sample.

49. (currently amended) A solid phase for multiepitope detection of an analyte in a sample, the analyte comprising at least two epitopes, the solid phase comprising a non-porous support, a first and a second spatially separate test area, and a first and a second receptor, the receptors binding specifically to the analyte but to different epitopes of the analyte, the first receptor-bound directly or indirectly to the first test area and the second receptor bound directly or indirectly to the second test area, there being no more than one analyte-specific receptor bound per test area and there being an inert surface between the test areas which does not bind to the analyte or other sample components.

What is claimed is:

1-43. (previously cancelled)

44. (currently amended) A method for multiepitope detection of an analyte in a sample, the analyte comprising at least two epitopes, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a solid phase comprising a non-porous support, a first and a second spatially separate test area, and a first and a second receptor, the first and second receptors binding specifically with said analyte but to different epitopes of the analyte, the first receptor bound directly or indirectly to the first test area and the second receptor bound directly or indirectly to the second test area, there being no more than one analyte-specific receptor bound per test area and there being an inert surface between the test areas which does not bind to the analyte or other sample components,

(b) contacting the sample with the solid phase and with a detection reagent comprising a third receptor that binds with the analyte and that is bound to a signal generating group, and

(c) determining presence or amount of the signal generating group bound to the test areas via the analyte as a measure of the analyte in said sample.

45. (previously amended) The method of claim 44 wherein the analyte is selected from the group consisting of HIV I, HIV II, HBV, and HCV antibodies and HIV antigens.

46. (previously added) The method of claim 44 wherein each test area has a diameter of 0.01 to 1 mm.

47. (previously added) The method of claim 44 wherein the solid phase further comprises a control area.

48. (previously added) The method of claim 44 wherein said detection reagent is a universal detection reagent comprising labelled latex particles.

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49. (currently amended) A solid phase for multiepitope detection of an analyte in a sample, the analyte comprising at least two epitopes, the solid phase comprising a non-porous support, a first and a second spatially separate test area, and a first and a second receptor, the receptors binding specifically to the analyte but to different epitopes of the analyte, the first receptor-bound directly or indirectly to the first test area and the second receptor bound directly or indirectly to the second test area, there being no more than one analyte-specific receptor bound per test area and there being an inert surface between the test areas which does not bind to the analyte or other sample components.

50. (previously added) The solid phase of claim 49 wherein each test area has a diameter of 0.01 to 1 mm.

51. (previously amended) A test kit for multiepitope detection of an analyte in a sample, the analyte comprising at least two epitopes, the test kit comprising a solid phase according to claim 49 and a detection reagent comprising a third receptor that binds with the analyte and that is bound to a signal generating group.

52. (previously added) The test kit of claim 51 wherein said detection reagent is a universal detection reagent comprising labelled latex particles.

53-69. (previously cancelled)